From: New England Jewish Labor Committee
To: Robert McWatters
Subject: Ready to Strike! Harvard University Dining Workers
Date: Saturday, October 01, 2016 7:51:20 PM

Harvard University Dining Workers

READY TO STRIKE

Please join us in supporting Harvard University Dining Services (HUDS) workers as they strike for fair wages and healthcare. If an agreement isn't reached by midnight on this Tuesday, October 4th, there will be picket lines starting at 6:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 5th and going all day every day for the

duration of the strike at more than twenty Harvard campus dining hall locations. You are welcome to join picket lines at anytime.

The JLC will be standing with HUDS workers on

Wednesday, October 5th at 9:00 a.m.

at Science Center Plaza.

We will also join them on

Thursday, October 6th at 5:00 p.m.

in Harvard Yard.

On Friday, October 7th

there will be rally with politicians' support. Time and exact location to be announced.

If you want more information or want to hold a JLC sign, please contact us at NewEnglandJLC@jewishlabor.org or 617 227-0888

After months of negotiations, Harvard dining workers are going on strike in demand a sustainable yearly income and good health insurance.

HUDS employs 750 workers who are represented by UNITE HERE Local 26. Harvard students, including members of the JLC's Campus Initiative continue to support and organize with Harvard dining workers for a fair and sustainable contact

Harvard's labor practices indicate massive inequality at the univeristy; its endowment reached $37.6 billion, the highest it has ever been, and the school has amassed $7 billion dollars in fundraising this year alone.

Yet HUDS workers make, on average, just under $34,000 per year, and many face seasonal unemployment in the summer when the school's resident population falls. The union wants a $35,000 minimum annual salary for full-time workers. According to the MIT Living Wage Calculator, this wage falls below what is required to support more than one person living in the Boston area.

Furthermore, the university is attempting to change workers' health insurance plan. Under the new insurance policy, the cost of emergency room visits would more than double. Inpatient hospital services and outpatient surgeries, which are covered under the current plan, would cost $100 each. Despite the testimony of many Harvard Medical School students on the destructive impact of the proposed new insurance, the University has not changed their plans.

Please sign the petition in support of HUDS workers here.

Read more from the Boston Globe, Harvard Magazine, and the Harvard Crimson.

Thanks so much for your support,
Marya Axner
Jewish Labor Committee, New England

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